

## CLAIMS

1. Method for cooling or quenching slabs and sheets (2) with water in a cooling basin (1, 14), into which the slabs and sheets, which have first been set upright by a tilting device (18), are lowered and temporarily maintained on edge, characterized by the fact that cooling water is directed at the slabs and sheets (2).

2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the slabs and sheets (2) are fully immersed in a cooling basin (1) filled with water, and, in addition, cooling water is directed at them in the water bath of the cooling basin (1).

3. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the water level in the cooling basin (1, 14) is lowered, and the slabs and sheets (2) are placed in the cooling basin (1) with their lower edge located some distance from the water level (13a), and cooling water is directed at them.

4. Method in accordance with any of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that the cooling system is based on a physical-mathematical cooling model.

5. Method in accordance with any of Claims 1 to 4, characterized by the fact that the water pressure and/or the volume flow of the cooling water jets is automatically controlled.

6. Method in accordance with any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized by the fact that the distance of the jet devices (10; 11a, 11b) from the surface of the slabs and sheets (2) is automatically controlled.

7. Device for cooling or quenching slabs and sheets (2) with water in a cooling basin (1, 14), into which the slabs and sheets, which have first been set upright by a tilting device (18), are lowered and temporarily maintained on edge, especially for carrying out the method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the cooling basin (1) has jet devices (10; 11a, 11b), which are arranged on both sides of the lowered slabs/sheets (2), are directed towards their broadside surfaces, and are connected to a cooling water circulation (12), which has means (25a, 25b and 29) for lowering the water level from a maximum, upper water level (13b) to a low, lower water level (13a).

8. Device in accordance with Claim 7, characterized by the fact that the cooling basin (1) is connected by flow with a pump receiving basin (14).

9. Device in accordance with Claim 7 or Claim 8, characterized by the fact that the cooling basin (1) is designed with tracks (9) for a raisable and lowerable carriage (3) that holds a slab or a sheet (2).

10. Device in accordance with Claim 9, characterized by the fact that the carriage (3) is connected to a cable drive (4).

11. Device in accordance with Claim 10, characterized by the fact that the cable drive (4) has cables (7), which are guided by cable drums (5) mounted on the carriage (3), and the cable drums (5) are mechanically coupled with a frequency-controlled three-phase motor.

12. Device in accordance with any of Claims 9 to 11, characterized by the fact that the carriage (3) is guided on the tracks (9) by rollers or wheels (8).